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THE
F A N E
OF THE
D R U I D S.
A P O E M.

BOOK THE SECOND;

COMPREHENDING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN, PROGRESS, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIETY IN NORTH BRITAIN.

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE FIRST BOOK.

Non tamen pigebit, vel incondita ac rudi voce, memoriam prioris servitutis, ac testimonium presentium bonarum composuisse. TACIT.

L O N D O N:

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author of the following Poem is encouraged by the favourable reception that has been given to the first Part of it, to offer the second to the Publick. He hopes that his Readers in general, and more especially that those of North Britain, will examine with some curiosity a subject so new to Poetry, as is that of the Origin and Progress of Society in this part of the united Kingdoms. If the present attempt shall be honoured by their approbation, the Author proposes to complete his plan in a subsequent Book, by tracing Society from its origin, to its Establishment in Scotland in the present times: in conducting which, he will have occasion, not only to consider the great transactions from the beginning of the 17th century down to this time, wherein the Scottish nation bore a part; but also to contemplate its present flourishing situation in Commerce, Arts, Literature, &c. and the causes that have led to it.

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THE Author of the following Essay is encouraged by the favourable reception that has been given to the first Part of it, to offer the second to the Public. The hope is that this Reader in general, and more especially that circle of North Britons, will examine with some curiosity a subject so new to them, on a point of the Order and Progress of Society in this part of the united Kingdom. If the present attempt shall be honoured by their approbation, the Author proposes to complete his plan in a third quarto book, or treatise, Society from its origin, to its Establishment in Scotland. In the present treatise, in consequence of which, he will have occasion not only to consider the great transition from the beginning of the 17th century down to this time, but also the Scottish nation for a long time, but also to consider the present flourishing situation in Commerce, Arts, and Manufactures, and the causes that have led to it.

THE ARGUMENT.

Decline of the Druids. Fall of the Druidical Oak. Pre-

judication of the Druids. and other accounts of the Druids in-

THE

Argument in favour of the Druids by Robert Scott.

was published. These are the Origin of the Druids in

F A N E

North Britain. Conquest of the Druids by the Saxons.

improvement. Villages founded. Tillage introduced.

O F T H E

Form of the first buildings. Social intercourse. Effect of

Commerce on society. Its introduction, causes, progress,

D R U I D S.

and influence. Rudiments of navigation. Commerce

intercourse with the Continent. Progress of civilization.

Influence of Science on society. State of Scotland in the

dark ages. Character of her poets from an early period.

B O O K II.

Barbarism. Eulogium of Wallace. Dunbar, Bannan,

Johnston, Barclay, Adamson: Historians. Fordyce, Boece,

Chronicle of Melrose, Historians of the Stuart. General

Reflection. Reflection and conclusion from the whole.

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THE ARGUMENT.

Decline of the Druids. Fall of the Druidical OAK. Preservation of the Fane, and of the order of Bards. Their instrumentality in taming the Barbarians by whom Scotland was subdued. Effect of their songs. Origin of society in North-Britain. Conquest of the Picts favourable to social improvement. Villages founded. Tillage introduced. Form of the first buildings. Social intercourse. Effect of Commerce on society. Its introduction, causes, progress, and influence. Rudiments of navigation. Commercial intercourse with the Continent. Progress of civilization. Influence of Science on society. State of Scotland in the dark ages. Character of her poets from an early period. Barbour. Eulogium of Wallace. Dunbar, Buchanan, Johnston, Barclay, Adamson: Historians. Fordun, Boethius, Chronicle of Melrose, Historians of the Stuarts. General reflection. Recapitulation and conclusion from the whole.

THE

THE
FANE OF THE DRUIDS.

BOOK II.

LONG, in the wilds of Caledonia's land
The Druid rulers held supreme command;
Long, o'er a nation ruled with temperate fway,
And saw their happy sons with joy obey.
Even when the world's great Sovereigns doom'd their fall,
And crush'd by stern decrees th' imperious Gaul,
Beneath her spreading oaks, secure from harm,
Thy sons, Britannia, lived, nor felt alarm:

The world's great Sovereigns.— Augustus and Claudius attempted successively to break the power of the Gaulish Druids, by issuing out severe edicts against them. Whatever may have been the effect of these edicts in Gaul, it does not appear that they at all affected the druidical establishment in Britain. Their influence could not be felt in the northern part of the Island, which the Romans had not at that time subdued.

Her northern race, along the peaceful shore
Heard but the torrent dash, and ocean roar.

'Twas past. Revolving ages swept away
Race after race, successive in decay.

A fiercer band appear'd, whose hands defaced
The peaceful groves, and laid the nation waste:

A tribe commission'd by an angry God,
From Scandinavian deserts rush'd abroad;

In search of foreign regions spread afar,
A lawless croud, that menaced spoil and war.

To Caledonia's coast they held their course,
An host unmatched in number, as in force;

There, like some mighty river swell'd with rain,

Now raged the naked Pict, or barbarous Dane;

Blood-thirsty crew, to furious battle bred,

That joy'd in slaughter, and in heaps of dead!

The naked Pict.—I follow Buchanan's account of the origin of the Picts in this narration; which, for any thing that we know to the contrary, may be as well founded as is that of any other writer. He says, that this people came from a colony of Germans, or (according to Bede) of Scythians; who having left their native country in quest of new settlements, landed on the coast of Scotland, of which they took possession, after having expelled the ancient inhabitants. It is probable that the *Picts* were thus denominated from the barbarous custom of painting their bodies.

Nought

Nought stay'd their hands, in horrid league combined,
 Vows, shrieks, and suppliant pray'rs, were lost in wind;
 These, o'er the ruin of their lost domain
 The Druid people breathed, but breathed in vain.

Hark, yon loud crash ! the cleaving axe descends :
 And lo, the Monarch of the woodland bends,
 From his old mansion cast ! Supine he lies,
 In age defaced, the fierce invader's prize ;
 On his own ground he falls, exposed, and bare ;
 Shorn is his trunk, his leaves are lost in air !

Yet these so fell, so ruthless ; as they eyed
 The Fane in silence, felt their rage subside :
 They raised their hands, but trembled at the view,
 Grew tame, and wond'ring at themselves, withdrew.

Meantime the Druid Priests, despised, o'erthrown,
 As strangers roam'd o'er regions once their own :
 Deep in the solitary vales they stray'd,
 Or slept beneath the mountain's cheerless shade ;

In horrid league combined.—According to the abovementioned writer, the Danes invaded Scotland in consequence of an invitation of the Picts, whom Kenneth II. had subdued, and expelled from the kingdom. Hist. Lib. 6.

Or fought, their fate in anguish to deplore,
Their ancient seats, the seats of joy no more.
A few, the reliques of the mighty dead,
Crept from their caverns ; weak, oppress'd, dismay'd.
No grove around the sacred mansion rose,
No dark brown woods, or bowers of deep repose ;
No throng with reverence bow'd before the shrine,
Nor virgin's fix'd eye scann'd the Power divine :
Arm'd with keen faulchions, and resolved on death,
A barbarous people rush'd to war beneath ;
War was their trade, and his the first reward,
Whose ruthless heart in battle greatly dared ;
Whose arm, if carnage stain'd the whirling spear,
Knew no distinction in its mad career,
But ever bent on some disastrous end,
Whelm'd in wide havock brother, father, friend :
These they beheld, then with averted gaze
Sunk in their vales, and dream'd of ancient days.

While other orders fell, by turns disgraced,
Their names dishonour'd, and their forms defaced,

The

The BARDS in slaughter's desolating hour
 Still held their office, and retain'd their power.
 On heights dispersed, or wandering o'er the plain,
 They brought from hill and dale a lift'ning train;
 Lured by soft numbers, and the powers of sound,
 Thy sons informing Nature pour'd around!!

As he, who travelling to the drear' abode
 Of Pluto, soothed with melting strains the God;
 And held with transport touch'd th' infernal throng;
 (Such is his triumph in poetic song :)
 Thus, when the Poet on some height reclined,
 Gave heav'n-taught music to the murmuring wind,
 Or swell'd melodious in his tale of woe,
 Wild notes that spread along the vales below;

The BARDS in slaughter's.—To the observations on this order that have already been made, it may be proper to add here; that the Bards continued to be held in reverence, and even to enjoy peculiar privileges, during many ages after the abolition of the other druidical establishments. The great historian quoted above informs us, that even in his time the persons of the BARDS were accounted sacred, and that their houses were sanctuaries in all that part of the Island wherein the ancient language of the Britons continued to be spoken: that respected by all parties, they had liberty to pass and repass at pleasure through countries at war with each other: that they were received by the nobles with honour, and were generally dismissed with donations, &c. Lib. 2.

The sounds divine, to heedful ears address,
 Inspired at once and tamed the savage breast.
 All fix'd in still amaze beheld the Seer,
 And knew alternate joy, suspense, and fear;
 Each, in his fierce heart, musing as he stood,
 Felt rage subsiding, and the lust of blood.
 Anon, responsive to th' inspiring lay,
 Powers long in night immured resumed their sway.

As from weak embers smother'd and decay'd,
 Sparks rife, and crackling flames dispel the shade,
 When bellows heaving, or the winds conspire
 With breath to rouse the latent seeds of fire;
 Thus, at the sound that broke her long repose
 Meek Pity waked as from a trance, arose:
 She rose, and cast her dewy eyes abroad,
 While with new life each throbbing bosom glow'd;

Beheld the Seer.—It is well known, that the Celtic Bards were deemed by an ignorant and barbarous people to have possessed a spirit of prophecy. The term Vates, that is applied with equal propriety to signify either a Poet, or Prophet, seems to intimate, that this belief extended in the early ages of society, to farther nations advanced in civilization.

Thaw'd

OF THE DRUIDS.

109

Thaw'd at her looks, which genial warmth impart,
Sighs burst spontaneous from each yielding heart,
Tears slowly-trickling in that tender hour,
And pangs confess'd the sympathetic power;
The savage people, touch'd with new-born shame,
Wiped off the drops, and wonder'd whence they came.

Though slow th' effect of precepts that improve
The soul, and turn it's noblest powers to love,
Yet hence just order from confusion brought
First spoke the rule of cool discerning thought :
And though the Druid chiefs no more possess'd
The land, by numerous tribes revered, and blest'd ;
Their empire lost, a prize of nobler kind
They gain'd ; a godlike triumph o'er the mind.]
Their Bards, like Orpheus, fabled to reclaim
The wild's fierce inmates, made the savage tame ;
By slow degrees engag'd in Virtue's cause
A willing people, and controll'd by laws.
Hence, brutal rage suppress'd, and desperate hate,
Man met not man to mix in stern debate,

C

Nor

Nor each keen warrior on his arm relied
 To chasten arrogance, revenge, or pride ;
 Each tribe some chieftain as it's ruler chose,
 And all, a Sovereign to repel their foes ;
 Prudent to judge, and equal to decide,
 In peace their guardian, as in war their guide.

When now the Bards beheld a barbarous throng
 Reform'd by numbers, and the power of song ;
 A rite neglected long the tribe restor'd,
 And taught to worship heav'n's eternal Lord,
 Ere light, by chosen ministers convey'd
 To every land, along the region spread ;
 These heav'n-instructed, first prepared the way,
 As the pale dawn precedes th' effulgent day ;

Each tribe some chieftain, &c.—An ingenious modern writer has well observed, that “ in every country where the Druids bore the chief sway, the form of government was a mixture of aristocracy and monarchy.” In the establishment of the former, we may trace the origin of CLANS, so famous in the history of the Scottish nation. It is not surely an improbable conjecture, that the civil polity of these barbarous nations, after the times of the Druids, was regulated according to a model which the Bards who belonged to that order prescribed to them. And if they exerted their influence with some effect in establishing subordination in a civil department ; we may conclude, that this influence was employed with much greater efficacy, in suggesting to them proper notions of the perfections and providence of the Supreme Being. In describing the origin of society an enumeration of the circumstances above mentioned, as having conducted to this great end, was necessary.

And shew'd though dimly, to their wondering eyes
Scenes yet unseen, fair Virtue's glorious prize ;
Hope thus they gave to animate their course,
And dread, that checks the passions' lawless force ;
While other thoughts than those of war, refined
By gradual steps, and humanized the mind.

Yet was the task severe, and slowly wrought,
Nor but through ages to perfection brought ;
Habits long fix'd, nor yet by time subdued,
Rose from each casual fall in strength renew'd :
What causes check'd their force, by stealth assail'd,
What steady efforts in the attempt prevail'd ;
How laws, and temperate thought, assumed the place
Of forms that mark a rude and barbarous race,
The Muse relates ; (a work through ages plied)
And gleans from stores that histories provide.

Two nations high in courage as in name
Then ruled the region, rais'd to equal fame ;
Those on the mountains held afar their reign,
While these, a numerous tribe, possess'd the plain.

Proud of their name, their lineage, and their land;
 Nor curb'd by arms, nor yielding to command,
 The Caledonian chiefs supreme in power
 Trod the bleak heights, from each assault secure.
 A rival race, the people's ancient foe,
 O'erspread in herds th' extended fields below;
 These, where the solitary ocean laves
 The boundless shores, o'erlook'd the world of waves.
 While lawless numbers yet o'erspread the foil,
 Led but by will, and unsubdued by toil,
 Each on his courser raised, or thundering car,
 In hostile semblance met, and mix'd in war.

At last the hardy Caledonian band
 Prevail'd, and swept their rivals from the land:

The Caledonian chiefs, &c.—That the Caledonians inhabited the highland regions of Scotland, is clear (according to Mr. M'Pherson's account) from the analysis of the term. I quote the words of this writer upon the present occasion, because I am myself wholly unacquainted with the language from which this appellation is derived:—"When South Britain yielded to the power of the Romans, the unconquered nations to the north of the province were distinguished by the name of Caledonians. From their very name it appears, that they were of those Celts or Gauls, who possessed themselves originally of Britain. It is composed of two Celtic words, Cael signifying Celts or Gauls, and Dun or Don an hill; so that Cael-don, or Caledonians, is as much as to say, the Celts of the hill country." *Dissert.* p. 5.

Then happier times successive stood display'd,

When Caledonia's Kings the sceptre sway'd;

When

Then happier times, &c.—I place the origin of society, properly so called, in Scotland at that æra, when Kenneth II. finally conquered and expelled the Picts from the low country, of which the conquerors have ever since retained the possession. This great event fell out about the beginning of the ninth century, according to the Scottish historians.—See Boeth. Buch. Fordun, Guth. &c. During the times that preceded this period, civilization must have made small progress in nations who lived in a state of perpetual hostility; and of whom the people who conquered had been precluded during many ages from all intercourse with foreigners. He who studies the *history of manners* will find, that they received greater improvement in the course of a few generations, after the period above mentioned, in North Britain, than at any former or succeeding time, comprehending the same number of years. This observation requires to be illustrated. Boethius and Buchanan tell us, that the nobles of Kenneth II. after having been entertained sumptuously by this Monarch, slept in the royal mansion upon leaves and grass, according to the custom of their ancestors. But at the distance of two centuries from this period, we find the Scottish nobles flaunting in foreign and parti-coloured garments; and the King and Queen of Scotland magnificently served in something that resembled gold and silver plate. Turg. Act. Sanct. And we cannot err in judging that the other accommodations corresponded, in some degree, to this magnificence.—Two causes may be assigned of this improvement, unexpected as it may appear in the northern corner of an island, which circumstances natural and accidental guarded from the intercourse of foreigners. The first was the state of the country; which, after the expulsion of the Picts, was occupied by one people, in place of being inhabited by hostile nations, who carried on war against each other without intermission or abatement. When the Scots became masters of the whole kingdom, subordination and government were gradually established among them; and the minds of men, no longer actuated by *civil* dissensions, as they may be called, had leisure to cultivate arts, of which peaceable times have ever been found to be productive.

The intercourse that took place betwixt the inhabitants of North and those of South Britain, after the above-mentioned æra, was the second cause to which we ascribe the origin and establishment of society among the former. The Britons of the Roman province, civilized although no doubt enervated by their conquerors, imparted to their ferocious neighbours those arts which they had learnt from a cultivated people; and gradually convinced them, that other objects than those of war and conquest might contribute essentially to national felicity. The operation of these causes was no doubt obstructed during

When o'er the plains, the seats of mild repose,
The straw-clad hut and peaceful village rose.

Beside some tower, that held a haughty Lord

By suppliant vassals as a God ador'd,
The tribes began their little huts to rear,
By love invited, or impell'd by fear.

(For yet the gleanings of a race oppress'd
Crept forth to spoil the land they once possess'd:)

during many ages in a great degree, partly by the mutual animosity of hostile nations, and partly by native prejudices in favour of ancient practices and opinions, which it has ever been found difficult to eradicate from the minds of the vulgar. Yet the progress to civilization was sure, although rendered by these circumstances almost imperceptible: and we mark order in the mirror of history as spreading gradually over the chaos wherein all things appear to have been promiscuously blended.

Beside some tower, &c.—The villages and burghs of North Britain, so far back as we can trace them, were originally of two kinds. They either belonged to the King, or great men, or were the property of church-men. In the former case, they were erected near the castles of the proprietor, whither the vulgar repaired for protection and maintenance: in the latter, as the sacred ground afforded a *sanctuary*, we do not so certainly find castles in the neighbourhood, as in burghs either originally royal, or become so by the forfeiture of the old proprietors. A very clear account of the nature of the royal boroughs of Scotland will be found in the ancient statutes of the kingdom. The Burgeffes were men who got a share of the territory of the burgh for building on, under a military tenure of guarding it for the King. Acres of arable ground were sometimes allotted to individuals on this occasion: and a larger tract was often granted as a promiscuous possession. The burgh of Lauder was erected in this form in the minority of James V. And the foundation charters of the royal boroughs will be found in general, if not in every instance, to coincide with this hypothesis.—There is here a small anachronism, which it is hoped that the reader will excuse. We know that houses were built, and even that villages were founded in Scotland, long before the ninth century. But we have here supposed that both were erected at that æra, when the inhabitants first had leisure to cultivate the arts.

Thither

Thither the gentle swain, the labourer pass'd,
 Secure from robbers wandering o'er the waste:
 And claim'd protection from the chief, and shared
 With him their substance as his best reward.
 A scene that breathed of culture, soon began
 To point the stranger to th' abodes of man.
 Fields mark'd with furrows spake th' encroaching plough,
 And wandering flocks o'erspread the mountain's brow;
 The shepherd's little dog, amid the throng
 Drove frisking light, the bleating herds along;
 Sweet from the cliff was heard the rural tale,
 And long long echoes died along the vale.

As yet the hamlets rear'd in haste, betray'd
 A race unpractis'd in the builder's trade:

Rude was the simple frame, nor form'd to last,
 Of stones that ill repell'd the northern blast:

Rude was the simple frame, &c.—Tradition informs us, that the houses and accommodations of the inhabitants of North Britain, in very early ages, were such as are described in the poem. The house was a large oblong building, composed of stones laid upon each other without cement, so as to form a wall. In the middle of a thatched roof was an aperture, which served the double purpose of being a chimney and a window. Beneath this passage, or chimney, the fire was lighted up in the centre of an area consisting of earth some-

what

The floor of earth, where rude materials spread,
 Heath or dry straw compos'd the rustic bed :
 Amid the centre of the mansion, stood
 The hearth with fuel heap'd, and crackling wood ;
 Above, an opening gave the smoke to rise,
 And mount in spiry volumes to the skies.

Around the fire conven'd a mirthful train
 That led the dance, or join'd th' enlivening strain ;
 Or heard entranced the harp's melodious sound,
 That told of deeds by chiefs in arms renown'd,
 And traced the social compact from it's cause,
 To temperate order, and establish'd laws.
 They sung of warriors of immortal fame,
 Each served by tribes that bore a common name ;

Of

what levelled, with the purpose of rendering walking commodious, particularly to children. Around this fire the family and guests assembled in common, in a certain established order. The master and mistress of the house were seated at the upper end, at the greatest distance from the door ; the guests sat on each side of them ; and the children and servants in their proper arrangements completed the circle. The beds were usually a few trusses of straw or heath piled together at the two ends of the apartment. Upon these all enjoyed a rest, which the exercises of the day rendered peculiarly comfortable and refreshing. I have been told, that these simple manners and accommodations are still to be met with in some parts of Lochaber and Badenoch, wherein the heath, when smoothed and raised to a proper height from the floor, forms, in consequence of it's softness and elasticity, a pleasant and salutary couch.

They sung of warriors, &c.—The origin of CLANS would form a most memorable

Of sumptuous feasts by all with pleasure shar'd;
 Of jousts, where prosperous valour gain'd reward;
 Of fields in harvest's yellow vesture clad;
 Roofs blest'd of Heav'n, that gave the stranger shade;
 Themes that announced society improved
 Caught every heart : all felt, admired, and loved.

As when the pent hive gives it's swarm to day,
 The rising myriads shade th' aerial way :
 Whirl'd in loose eddies on the buzzing wing,
 Around they wheel in many an airy ring :
 If chance they hear th' enlivening bell behind,
 Or brass that tinkles on the murmuring wind,

ble era in the history of Scotland, provided the period of their establishment could be ascertained with accuracy. It is certain, that by whatever fortuitous coincidence they came together, yet associated numbers acknowledging one chief, to whom they profess allegiance under a common designation, present to us an idea of society in a progressive state, although rude indeed, and sometimes involved in temporary anarchy. A large body of men, connected by consanguinity as well as by appellation, assembled under a leader or chieftain, may be considered as a great family, of which the governor is the political parent. In the barbarous ages, when muscular strength, agility, and *weight of bone*, took place of the arts that polish, and of the virtues that dignify humanity, it is probable that men ranged under chieftains in whom those qualities were, remarkably pre-eminent, and were accompanied with that brutal courage, or ferocity (as it may properly be termed) which constituted the character of *Protectors*. These men claimed from their vassals, in consequence of the protection, whether real or imaginary, which they extended to them, homage and services at first, and afterwards *property*, as an adequate compensation.

The din subsides, the swarm descending slow
 Rest on the furze, or load some bending bough,
 Their queen presiding: thus the willing throng,
 In order ranged, attend the varying song;
 In social converse then, or harmless play,
 They laugh at ease the flying hours away.

Though peace and plenty thus in concert reign'd
 O'er men by fages taught, by laws restrain'd;
 Yet deeds that spoke of habits unreclaim'd
 Still mark'd a code unfit and rudely fram'd.
 A race untutor'd, and averse to toil,
 Seized in the stranger's land, and shared the spoil;
 Thence each, with joyous heart, in triumph bore
 Men, steeds, and herds, exulting in the store;
 And deem'd, by rage, or lust, or hunger driven,
 What fraud or force procured—the gift of Heav'n.
 Hence first the heart, (it's nobler powers controll'd)
 Burn'd with fierce passions, and the lust of gold;
 Gold earn'd by desperate acts, that when possess'd
 Gave deep disquiet to it's owner's breast:

For,

For, mid' the stores that met the plunderer's eyes,
 What time he mark'd and gain'd th' allotted prize,
 And speeding homeward, as he thought, unknown,
 Judged, vainly judged, the valued heaps his own:
 It's injured master, keen to reach the foe,
 Hangs on his step, that prints the fleecy snow;
 O'er distant regions holds his path in sight,
 And spies his cottage at th' approach of night;
 Behind him stealing with a chosen few,
 He bursts in sudden thunder on his view,
 Reclaims his own, with curses on his head,
 And o'er his children shakes th' avenging blade;
 O'erturns his hut; and, glorying in his prey,
 Flocks, goods, and treasure, homeward bends his way.

Not ev'n the Fane, though from it's central stone
 'Twas deem'd that goblins pour'd their nightly moan,
 Retain'd, though lodg'd in hallow'd earth, the store,
 Even there it's master seiz'd the precious ore;
 Yet, not unmindful of the Powers divine,
 With gifts and suppliant vows approach'd their shrine.

D 2 When

When thus 'twas found that still revenge pursued
 Deeds even by barbarous foes with horror view'd ;
 That Heav'n to impious acts denied it's aid,
 And robber's ruthless hand on robber prey'd ;
 By surer means at last they strove to gain
 The gold with pleasure spent, though earn'd with pain :
 Hence COMMERCE rose, and laws by Heav'n inspired
 To all secured what industry acquired.

Ere

Hence COMMERCE rose, &c.—In the curious disquisitions that arise out of the subject of this Poem, I am more solicitous to gratify, in some cases, readers of plain common-sense, than the lovers of theory, and of conjecture founded on ambiguity. I consider commerce as being of two kinds, inland or foreign ; of which the latter was necessarily posteriour to the former. By the term *inland*, when applied to North Britain, I understand, not merely the commercial transactions that may have taken place in the interior part of the kingdom, but those that were carried on among the inhabitants of the island. This sense of the term restricts the epithet *foreign*, in the present acceptation, to the trade of this kingdom with the continent. The defect of historical information respecting the origin and establishment of inland commerce must be supplied by conjecture, founded upon unalterable principles in the nature and constitution of man. The first irruptions of two hostile nations upon the territories of each other, were made with predatory purposes. Small bodies of men, associated together upon the borders of the adjoining kingdoms, and breaking into either with lawless violence, appropriated to themselves the moveables of the inhabitants, without regard to justice, or feeling of commiseration. The injured party, in whose minds the desire of wealth co-operated with the passion of revenge, made reprisals immediately in kind. All this was perfectly natural, in ages wherein men who wished to possess wealth took the shortest method to acquire it. The remedy of these evils was at last prescribed by the consequences of which they were productive. Beings endowed with reason cannot continue in a state of anarchy, to which the exercise of this faculty is repugnant. Without annihilating the desire of acquisition, it pointed out a method of obtaining this purpose, more consistent with general felicity than that which had formerly been adopted. South Britain, whose inhabitants, until it was conquered by the Romans,

Ere yet Britannia's northern sons, refin'd,
 Grew skill'd in arts that civilize mankind;
 Her favour'd race beneath a warmer ray
 Improved, like flowers fair-opening on the day.
 A polish'd nation known in claffick lore,
 Subdued, and taught them arts unknown before;
 Brought wealth, the growth of commerce, from afar;
 And tamed the fierce heart else intent on war.

Romans, had little intercourse with foreigners, became, under their government, a populous and cultivated country. And, although the people, awed by submission, and enervated by luxury, appear to have been dastardly and effeminate when left by their conquerors, yet their manners retained some part of the polish which they had imparted. During the intervals of peace, or rather of cessation from hostility, that took place betwixt this people and their ferocious neighbours of the North, the latter, without doubt, acquired notions to which they had formerly been strangers, from their communication with more improved society; and at those times, they would endeavour to gain, by an exchange of commodities, the wealth which at other periods had been the reward of depredation. To this purpose, perhaps, nothing would contribute more effectually, than the establishment of FAIRS, as places of publick resort, where every man might dispose of his property under the protection and security of law. At those marts of traffick the ideas of men were at the same time enlarged and diversified by mutual intercourse: and they considered themselves as temporary members of a great community, of which they became submissive to the ordinances and restraints. Commercial transactions were therefore carried on with freedom in a place where the strong was not permitted to give law to the weak. The reader, by following out these observations, may judge concerning the casual and private connection of individuals, between whom a friendship, founded on the most honourable principles, and giving scope to the finest feelings of the human heart, would gradually be established. I shall only observe farther on this subject, that at public meetings of the present kind in times of peace, *the desire of pleasing*, that is implanted in the human heart with such noble purposes, is called into exercise; and men passing from business to pleasure, softened the manners of each other insensibly, while, by imparting new ideas, they extended the boundaries of knowledge.

With

With these combined, the Caledonian band
 By chance who wander'd in a foreign land
 Grew mild ; the warriors, by no force subdued,
 Felt their rude passions rul'd, their hearts renew'd:
 They learnt to gain in traffick's equal course
 From these, the riches once acquired by force :
 And felt a conscious pride, till now unknown,
 To call the treasures thus procured their own.

Yet inland commerce, to one isle confined,
 Served but to rouse, not sate th' expanding mind ;
 It rose on union into fight, and brought
 To view effects that spoke of temperate thought.
 But on the *boundless* main Ambition eyed
 A field for commerce stretch'd along the void ;
 She saw, and kindling at the prospect, plann'd
 A work, whose greatness mark'd her daring hand.

As when some leader from the mountain's height
 Beholds his marshall'd bands prepared for fight ;
 He scans afar the region, and descries
 A fort with turrets crown'd that reach the skies ;

Mark'd on the limit of the distant scene,
 With rocks, and floods, and many a vale between:
 He sees, and deems the prize to him assign'd,
 Nor dreads the toils and perils yet behind.
 Onward he leads his host; by fraud or force
 Prepared to conquer what obstructs his course:
 New hope from danger springs; he holds one aim
 In fight; by labour brac'd, and lur'd by fame;
 Thus felt Ambition, as before her lay
 The main, in thought that own'd her sovereign sway.
 She plann'd the ships that, swept before the blast
 With sails expanded, plough the watery waste:
 Yet not at once, but by degrees obtain'd
 Her end, by toil and long experience gain'd.
 Boats rudely fashion'd, with the sweeping oar
 At first convey'd along th' adjacent shore:

Boats rudely fashion'd, &c.—Without enquiring by what nation North Britain was first peopled, we may be assured, that those who migrated from their native regions into Britain must have had some knowledge of navigation, without which they could not have launched into the ocean. The practice however of Indians, who may be said to live at this time in a state of nature, as detailed in the works of all our circumnavigators, would prove incontestibly, that the wonderful art above mentioned originated in the simple expedient that is described in the Poem, if any proof of a fact so consonant to observation and experience should be required.—With respect to the present subject, see the succeeding note.

An inexperienced race, a wary crew,
 Who held intent the neighbouring strand in view
 With watchful eyes; and at each breeze that fann'd
 Their sail, with beating bosoms fought the land.

In ships of ampler frame at last they bore
 (Urg'd by the Power) to many a distant shore

Their

In ships of ampler frame, &c.—If the first inhabitants of Scotland had any knowledge of navigation, they seem to have lost it very soon after their settlement in the country, as their manners and habits of life were those of mere savages, who lived in a state of brutal insensibility. They are represented by the ancients as naked barbarians, who made incisions on their bodies in the form of flowers, like the inhabitants of the remote isles of the Pacific Ocean; as having lived on the bark and roots of trees, with their women in common, &c. &c. Such is the account given of them by Dio Cassius, Herodian, Solanus, &c.; of whom we might judge that they had exaggerated matters, were it not that Cæsar's description of the Southern Britons corresponds to that of the former in many essential circumstances. Comment. Lib. 5. The inhabitants of the coast no doubt made use of boats, even in those days, for the purpose of fishing, which the simplest reflection would induce them to practise. Many ages appear, as far as we can judge, to have elapsed before ships were built for the purposes of war, or commerce with foreign nations. In the lives of illustrious men who migrated from the northern part of this island into foreign countries, and who returned enriched with a large proportion of the learning of the times, we meet with the first and surest evidence of its intercourse with the continent; an intercourse that could only be carried on in ships of a somewhat complicated construction. See M'Kenzie's *Lives of Scottish Writers*, Vol. I. and III. ab init. The remains of ancient temples, fortresses, monuments, &c. that are still conspicuous in the Hebrides, as well as the testimony of ancient authors, seem to point out these islands as the early seats of civilization and of commerce. See Martin's *West. Isl. pass.* Life of St. Columbus. Rowl. *Mona Antiq. Restaur.* The first great fleet that was fitted out by any monarch of Scotland, is that which Alexander III. is said to have sent under the Earl of Ross, to re-conquer this country from the Norwegians. Hist. Orcad. Lib. 2. Camp. Polit. Sur. Ch. viii. Sect. 4. Fordun acquaints us, that Magnus, the King of Man, engaged to send to this prince ten vessels or galleys, of which the least contained twelve oars, as an acknowledgment of his dependance. In the same reign,

Their goods, exchang'd in traffick for the gold
 Of other realms, or forms of various mould :
 Soul-chearing wine, a welcome store, they brought
 From these, and robes of various texture wrought.
 Nor wealth they gain'd alone, but rose to fame,
 And spread afar the Caledonian name :
 Thence, when returning to their native land
 Improved ; with acts that dignified command,
 They taught a race inured to rude alarms
 To shine, inform'd alike in arts, and arms.
 No more a nation uncontroll'd by law,
 Seiz'd as the warriour's right whate'er they saw ;
 No more in quest of wealth o'erspread the land,
 And scatter'd ruin with unsparing hand :
 Manners from concourse rose ; a generous race,
 Humane and mild, that knew each gentler grace ;

reign, the Norwegians landed a great army on the coast of Scotland from a fleet consisting of many ships, which are evidences that the northern nations had then acquired some knowledge in navigation. Notwithstanding these circumstances, he who shall examine the parliamentary transactions of this kingdom, so late as the reign of James I. and II. will find from the statutes concerning navigation, that every thing in that branch was, even then, in it's infancy.

E

Along

Along the coast, or on the cultur'd plain,
In smiling villas held a fair domain.

But yet unversed in arts of nobler kind,
Arts heav'n-bestow'd that humanize the mind,
They lived ; while each, as chance or fancy shew'd
The forms, adored his Chieftain, or his God.
The rules and laws by Druid sages taught,
The moral strain with various wisdom fraught,
Were heard no more. The Poet's venal lays
And love-wrought tale proclaim'd degenerate days.
The chief who gain'd an honourable name,
And trod in foreign lands the field of fame ;
The monk, the drone in Learning's little hive ;
The venturous merchant bold, and bent to thrive ;
The priest, the sage, while that the temple sought,
And this deep shade, the nurse of solemn thought,
Alike in darkness lived, in darkness died,
Nor science dwelt with wealth, nor smiled on pride.
At last the Goddess, o'er th' horizon borne,
Appear'd effulgent as the star of morn.

Faint

At last the Goddess, &c.—No particular circumstance distinguished the introduction
of

Faint was the beam that trembled in her eye,
 When first it wander'd o'er a clouded sky,
 Ere yet the heav'n-taught Power, confess'd to fight,
 Shone on th' ethereal void, serenely bright:
 Not then the Graces sporting in her train,
 Heard in their dance the lute's enlivening strain;
 Nor pure Religion, graceful near her side,
 Seem'd now th' attendant friend, and now the guide:
 A scanty band assembling round their Queen,
 In modest guise approach'd with humble mien:
 Untouch'd by pride, nor vers'd in modern lays,
 Their words, their gesture, breathed of ancient days.
 Say Muse, who first of Caledonian line,
 By science favour'd, and th' inspiring Nine;
 Dim lights that on a dark horizon shone,
 Preserved great names, and conquests else unknown!

of science into North-Britain, from the same event in any other country. This kingdom indeed was never without it's lights even in the dark ages; and the genius of it's inhabitants, free, independent, and turned to speculation, improved the rudiments of science which their northern situation rendered them late in acquiring, with as much industry and success as any other European nation. Of this truth, the writers of Scotland, equally distinguished by science and genius, who flourished during many ages, afford distinguished and unquestioned evidence.

Thy Bard, illustrious BRUCE, the famed Barbour,
 Who sung of free-born chiefs unmatched in power,
 Led on the train.—Of war was all his song,
 In rhymes that bore each throbbing heart along!
 Uncouth, yet bold and copious was his strain,
 Of foes that bled on Bannock's glorious plain;
 Of English maids and widows, that deplore
 Their friends unburied on a hostile shore;
 The Monarch flying like a hunted deer,
 With *Wallace's great avengers* in his rear!

—*the famed Barbour.*—Barbour was a native of Aberdeen; and was born, according to M'Kenzie, towards the beginning of the reign of David II. about the middle of the fourteenth century. He applied in his early years to poetry; and in his riper age to divinity with so great success, that David conferred upon him the arch-deaconry of his native city. He finished his History in 1375, and died most probably in 1396. The learned and discerning author of Annals of Scotland is of opinion, that some officious transcriber has modernized his language. He was a man of letters, had much poetical merit, and obtained a pension from Robert I. See Macken. Lives, Vol. i. p. 265.—297. Dalrym. Annals, Vol. ii. p. 3.

—*foes that bled on Bannock's glorious plain.*—Bannock is the name of a little brook near Stirling, that is rendered famous by the victory which Bruce obtained on the field through which it runs, over the English.

Of English maids and widows, &c.—These lines refer to the ballad in the rude language of those times, that was sung throughout Scotland on occasion of the memorable victory above mentioned.

Maydens of England, fore may ye mourne,
 For the lemmons zou have lost at Bannock bourne, &c.

Wallace's great avengers, &c.—Randolph, and Douglas. The latter pursued the King of England at full speed, and with the greatest perseverance, until the Earl of March received him into the castle of Dunbar, whence he was conveyed by sea to Berwick. Barbour L. 280.

O glo-

O glorious chief, renown'd in every fight!
 Thou brave defender of thy country's right!
 Alike in virtuous thought and action great,
 In all a Roman, but in prosperous fate!
 Bold son of Liberty, whose mighty hand
 Burst, nobly burst oppression's iron band!
 Alone superiour to thy fate's decree,
 Alone amidst a conquer'd nation free;
 Betray'd unhappy by thy treacherous friend,
 And mock'd with forms of justice in thine end;
 By tyrant power condemn'd and foreign laws,
 Thou fell'st a martyr in the noblest cause;
 The mighty spirit, unsubdu'd by pain,
 Fled to the climes where Freedom holds her reign.

O glorious chief, &c.—This eulogium on the renowned Wallace will be censured by the lovers of freedom, only, as being perhaps wholly inadequate to the merit of a man, who fell a martyr to the liberty of his country. Tried in a foreign land, by laws of which he neither knew the tenour, nor was subjected to the penalty; the native of an ancient and independent kingdom was butchered by the ministers of a tyrant, who availed himself of treachery to possess, and of a mock trial to put to death with studied tortures, a noble enemy, whom he was unable to conquer in the field. Thus, says an *English* historian, suffered that brave spirit by an ignominious death in a strange country, for his endeavours to defend the liberties of his own, &c. Macken. Lives, Vol. i. p. 264.

An

An age though later mark'd by rage, and war,
Beheld a sweet and moral bard—Dunbar:
A bard, with ease who swept the tuneful strings,
Whose fame shall flourish as the Rose he sings.
Though rude, yet rich the fancy that pourtray'd
A pleasing scene, and temper'd light with shade;
Witty and keen at once, whose mind unites
The grace that pleases, with the tooth that bites:
But Genius, bent on other wings to soar,
Informs an offspring skill'd in classic lore.

I see them rise!—Buchanan crown'd with bays,
Who claims the poet's and historian's praise;

As

Dunbar.—This ingenious gentleman was a native of Salton, in East Lothian, and flourished in the reigns of James IV. and V.; by the former of whom, and by his queen Margaret, he was much favoured. It appears from some of his later poems, (particularly from two that are addressed to the King) that with poetical genius, he had long entertained an unwelcome guest, in it's attendant, *Poverty*. Of the former, his golden Targe, and the poem entitled the Thistle and the Rose, exhibit unquestioned evidences, at least, if exquisite painting and copious invention be considered as characteristics of it. The versatility of the author's mind is conspicuous in his shorter poems, wherein humour and sentiment alternately predominate.

Buchanan.—The character of Buchanan as a poet, historian, and politician, is well known, and in the two latter departments has been equally the object of panegyrick and censure; or, to speak more properly, of the keenest invective. Without entering into the nature of the charges brought against him, we consider him here in a light in which he is the object of undoubted approbation: Had this great man flourished in a later and more cultivated

As Hesper on the starred arch beheld,
Shines with unrivall'd splendour on the field!

Whether he pours in animated song
Sublime, the Prophet's heav'n-taught strains along;
Or rivals Athens in the tragic art
In tuneful lays that melt and warm the heart;
Or holds, while Satire strikes her victims through,
Dark deeds to fight, like treasons plann'd below;
(Each friar felt the dart imbu'd in gall:)

Alike his mighty mind excells in all.

Next Johnstone rose, a high and honour'd name;
By claffick elegance advanc'd to fame.

He cultivated age, than that of Mary was in Scotland; his genius, that was equal to the greatest efforts, would have appeared to much greater advantage in original composition, than in the circumscribed sphere of translation, and of paraphrase. The best account of Buchanan's life and actions is that which was written by himself about two years before his death. His article in M'Kenzie's Lives, &c. so often referred to, is rather a studied invective, than an impartial narrative. And Bayle in his Dictionary does not justice to his merit. Art. Buchanan.—In præsentia (1579) septuagesimum quartum annum agens, apud Jacobum 6^{um} Sotorum regem, cui erudiendo erat præfectus anno 1565, senectutis suæ malis fractus, portum exoptans, agit. Buchan. Vit. a seip. script.

Johnstone—Arthur Johnstone, descended of the ancient family of the Johnstones of Caskieben, now Keithhall, the elegant seat of the noble family of Kintore, in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, was born at Aberdeen in the year 1587; five years after the death of his illustrious predecessor Buchanan:—"God (says the author of his life) having ordained this event, that Scotland might never want an eminent Poet." Hoc agentibus scilicet

superis

He too, of heav'nly themes intent to sing,
Struck the bold harp of Israel's fainted King;

Nor

superis ne illustri vate Scotia unquam careret. Johnst. Vit. ap. Poet. Scot. Mus. Sac. p. 30. The university of King's College of Aberdeen had the honour of his education, wherein he made so great proficiency, that he was qualified to travel at a very early age. He visited foreign countries, principally it would seem with the purpose of studying medicine, and received the degree of M. D. with the greatest approbation, at the university of Padua; at that time the greatest and most celebrated seat of learning in Europe. Having travelled afterwards through Italy, Denmark, Germany, England, Holland, &c. he came into France, and received at the age of twenty-three the signal honour of being created *Laureate* by the Most Christian King. After an absence of twenty-four years from his native country, he returned to it in the year 1632. He spent some years in the city of Aberdeen, where in 1637 he published his celebrated version of the Psalms, which the author of his life justly denominates a divine work, the surest indication of the piety, learning, and talents of it's illustrious author. *Divinum certe opus, maximum atque certissimum summæ viri præstantissimi, tum eruditionis tum pietatis etiam indicium.* Charles I. admitted our author some time after among his physicians in ordinary, an honour which he had enjoyed during the last years of James VI. He seems to have spent the remaining years of his life in England, in the enjoyment of learned ease. And the author of his life considers as a singular felicity, his having died in 1641, before the commencement of the civil war, although he was then only in the fifty-fourth year of his age. He died at Oxford, of the plague. I find among the miscellaneous poems of our author, preserved in the *Poetarum Scotorum Musæ Sacræ*, two, that deserve notice on account of their singularity. One, entitled *In Porticum Desfortianam*, has as it's subject a curious historical pillar at Desford, in Banffshire (the place from which the eldest son of the ancient and illustrious family of Findlater has his title;) that seems to have exhibited many various objects.

Arte laboratum summis laquearibus aurum,
Exhibet historias quot vetus orbis habet, &c.

This little poem concludes with an elegant compliment to the proprietor. Poet. Scot. Mus. Sac. p. 61. The other poem is entitled *De Aberdonia Urbe*, and is not less remarkable on account of the points of resemblance, which our author has discovered with much ingenuity, between objects that are dissimilar in magnitude, and in importance.

Cum populo quisquis Romanam suspicis urbem
Et mundi dominam, deliciasque vocas;
Confer Aberdoniam: Thetis hanc fervilibus undis
Alluit, urbs famulo nec procul illa mari est.

Utraque

Nor vainly struck : such heav'n-directed fire
 As pierc'd, when Druids smote the trembling lyre,
 Each yielding heart ; such melting airs, as brought
 (Sweet airs !) to peace the Monarch's furious thought,
 When Jesse's son allay'd with sounds divine
 His rage ;—such power, immortal Bard, was thine !

Nor Barclay less amid the numbers known,
 Stood famed for arts and graces, all his own ;
 A name, by Argenis to fame consign'd,
 Skill'd in each art that speaks th' ingenious mind.

Utraque fulta jugis subjectos despicit amnes ;

Utraque flaminea spirat ab arce minas.

Illa suos Fabios invictaque fulmina belli

Scipiades jactat, Cæsareamque domum.

Mennesios urbs, hæc proceres, gentemque culinam,

Et Collifonios, Lausoniosque patres.

Urbe Quirinali minor est Grampica : cives

Sunt tamen hic animis ingeniisque pares.

A pardonable, although somewhat too poetical eulogium on his native city, as this may be termed ; by whose inhabitants likewise he was respected and honoured. *Carus omnibus Aberdoniæ annos transegit.* Poet. Scot. Mus. Sac. p. 31.

Sweet airs ! &c.—Johnstone's language is exquisitely musical. No man who has musical feeling can be insensible to the modulated harmony of the following lines in our poet's version of the Song of Solomon.

Fer mihi suaviolum roseis, dilecte ! labellis :

Dulcior O dulci tu mea vita mero es !

Os olet ambrosiam, spirant tua basia myrrham ;

Halat et ex ipso nomine thuris odor.

It is somewhat surprising that Mackenzie has no article either on this eminent poet, or on his predecessor Dunbar.

Nor shall the Muse, injurious to her theme,

Forget great Adamson's illustrious name ;

A priest by merit rais'd to sovereign sway,

And heav'n-inspir'd to wake the melting lay ;

To foes he left a long-disputed field,

By threats induc'd, by death compell'd to yield ;

While at his latest hour the spirit soar'd

In songs sublime to heav'n's eternal Lord.

Not Bards alone, when Science spread her reign,

Spoke of her influence, or compos'd her train :

Th' historian's voice each generous deed proclaim'd,

For just narration as for genius fam'd.

Fordun of honest name succinct and clear,

Recalls the deeds of many a distant year.

Whose

Adamson.—Patrick Adamson was born at Perth, in the year 1536, of honest but poor parents. He was chosen by Mr. James M'Gill, a senator of the College of Justice, to travel as governor to his son, at an early age ; with whom he spent two years in Paris. He escaped narrowly from suffering with many other victims of bigotted rage at the massacre of French protestants in that kingdom. At his return to his native country, he was presented to the archbishoprick of St. Andrews. He wrote many pieces in prose and verse ; and in the latter particularly a poem on the birth of James VI. and (in the taste of the times) a translation of Jeremiah's book of Lamentation, and of the Apocalypse, into Latin verse. He died in the year 1591 ; and compos'd in his last hours verses in an high stile of exultation, for which I must refer the reader to his biographers. Volus. Vit. Pat. Adam. p. 5. Mackenzie's Lives, &c. Vol. iii. p. 376.

Fordun.—John de Fordun was born, in the judgment of our learned biographer M'Kenzie,

Whose page declares, with various matter fraught,
 His purpose good, his tale perhaps in fault.
 Boece of easy faith succeeds in place,
 Whose work though loose, displays superiour grace ;
 Not without elegance of phrase, that tells
 Of monks, and wizzards, combats, knights, and spells :

M'Kenzie, about the end of the reign of Alexander III. in the village of Fordoun, in the county of Mearns. He began to write the history of Scotland in the year 1341, but he lived only to finish the first five books of it. The remaining part of his book is continued by different hands. A monk named M'Culloch is the author of the short account of Fordun that is prefixed to his history. This work has apparent evidences of impartiality, that have contributed principally to procure it estimation. It's continuators to the time of Fordun, particularly M'Culloch, made use of his materials. Copies of the work, entitled *Scoti Chronicon*, were placed almost in every monastery of the kingdom. The exploded fable of Gathelus and Scota, and other stories equally absurd, are found in this history. But what nation has proofs of it's original? Fordun died about the end of the fourteenth century.

Boece.—Hector Boesis or Boethius was born in Dundee, and flourished in the beginning of the sixteenth century. He studied philosophy at Montague College in Paris, where he probably learnt to write the Latin language with that ease and fluency which is conspicuous in his history. The celebrated Dr. William Elphinston, Bishop of Aberdeen, having founded King's College and University about the year 1500, brought over our author from Paris, and made him principal of that College. He chose as his colleague Mr. William Hay, his countryman, and companion. By their united exertions he acquaints us, that the various departments of that University were occupied by men of eminent learning and abilities, of whom Dr. M'Kenzie gives a particular detail. Here our author perfected two works—An historical Account of the Bishops of Aberdeen ; and a general History of Scotland. The latter work, as that of Buchanan, has been the subject of panegyrick, and no doubt in some respect of merited censure. The reader, who may be pleased with this author's manner of telling his story, must be disgusted at his credulity. He seems upon the whole to have been a man of knowledge and ingenuity ; and rather the relater of fictions, than the inventor of them. Vide Bayle's Dict. Art. Boeth. M'Ken. Lives Vol. ii. p. 376—451.

In claffick phrafe he made each action known;
For rough and barbarous words deform'd his own.

'Twere vain to fpeak of Melrofs' old record
Sav'd from the fearch of England's haughty lord;
Or tell of Turgot, who with pride difplays
The deeds of faints in Malcom's golden days;
Or *Stuart's* juft historians, high in fame,
Who paint fucceffive fovereigns as they came:
Great but unhappy race, the fport of fate!
Who knew not aught of grandeur, but it's weight;
Thee what avail'd the gifts that Nature gave,
That merit own'd thee juft, and combat brave!
Amid the palace, camp, or field, decreed
By fraud, or chance, or treacherous hands—to bleed?
Involv'd promifcuous in one general doom,
Who knew no reft but in the peaceful tomb!

O, impotence

Stuart's juft historians.—Drummond of Hawthornden, &c.

Amid the palace, camp, or field, &c.—James I. of Scotland fell a victim to confpirators in his own palace. James II. was killed by a cannon burfting at the fiefge of Roxburgh. James IV. fell (as is generally fupposed) by the treachery of his own fubjects, after the battle of Flowden.

Who knew no reft, &c.—In vain fhall we fearch the records of hiftory with the purpofe

O, impotence of greatness, to obtain
 What man pursues, but Heav'n forbids to gain!
 A boon to monarchs as to slaves deny'd;
 These by dependence hurt, and those by pride;
 With-held by laws that mortals deem severe,
 In reason's eye remote, in fancy's near;
 Seen like a bubble dancing on the wind,
 When touch'd that breaks, nor leaves a trace behind!

Of causes thus by just degrees that tend,
 And various means to gain a general end;
 The song; the conquest of a signal day
 That o'er the region spread one sovereign's sway;
 A milder people's manners, that efface
 Rude forms, and deeds that mark a barbarous race;
 Commercial intercourse, that by the band
 Of common interest links each distant land;

of finding so steady a series of misfortunes in any line whatever, as was in that of the unhappy house of Stuart. A modern author, who is not prejudiced in favour of religion, observes, that this singular circumstance would induce one to believe in the doctrine of FATE.

And.

And last, fair Science, thine enlivening rays

From morn increasing to their noon-day blaze;

Of these the purpose stands in song compris'd;

A barbarous people tam'd and civiliz'd.

11:7:49

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